



INTERIOR OF OHIO EXHIBIT, JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

OHIO FARM PRODUCTS.

Her Splendid Display in the States Exhibit Palace, Jamestown.

Ohio has a very complete exhibit in the States Exhibit Palace, arranged by R. J. Tussing, superintendent, and his assistant, Samuel Taylor. Great is the fame of the Buckeye State in the world of grain, and when one looks at the display made here one no longer wonders.

To begin with, the booth contains something over 2,000 square feet of floor space and is surrounded by an inclosure twelve feet high. These side walls are literally covered with festoons and designs on the outside, while within tiers of glass jars containing samples of the several products be- wilder the eye.

On the outside are twenty-four panels decorated with grain and grass. These are all different, representing cereals, anchors, crosses and stars and shields, the rich brown and yellow stalks, blades and heads lending an infinite variety and freshness.

The glass jars mentioned contain every grain and staple seed grown in Ohio. There are 500 of these jars and in addition something like a hundred others filled with canned, preserved and pickled fruits.

Then there is the corn, large and small, white, red, yellow, blue, filling several long shelves. The largest ears measure from fifteen inches to eighteen inches long, containing something like 1,200 grains, while the smallest, Tom Thumb popcorn, is no bigger than your finger, with grains like little yellow beads.

Lastly you will be shown the "prehistoric corn." This was raised from grain found in a burial left by the mound builders. It is a peculiar looking product, a dingy yellow in color, with shrunken grains. The ears are smaller than those of ordinary corn. The best samples of white barley to be seen at the exposition are to be found in the Ohio booth. This to be seen was grown in Brown county, and the Spanish tobacco, Ohio seed leaf and Dutch tobacco come from Warren county.

Pythian Commander Pleased.

From the expression of the commanding officers, the Ohio uniform rank, Knights of Pythias, several hundred of whom recently encamped at the exposition, were delighted with the Tercentennial, with their camp and the treatment accorded them.

Colonel W. J. Klein of the Third regiment, Ohio brigade, says it is the most agreeable camp ever experienced by his men and that the exposition is a revelation to them in view of the criticisms of it scattered over the country. Colonel C. D. Moore of the Fifth regiment says the exposition is equal to that at St. Louis and that it requires a week to see the fair as it should be seen. He adds, "In reference to hotel accommodations, I wish to say that my wife and daughter have accompanied me on this trip, and they claim that they never before received as courteous treatment among strangers and at such liberal rates."

Mgr. Falconi Delighted.

"I am delighted with my visit to the Jamestown exposition, and I will remember this trip as one of the most pleasant events of my life. The exposition is magnificent and the illumination most beautiful."

With this statement his excellency Mgr. Falconi, pontifical delegate to the United States, left for Washington after having attended the convention of the Knights of Columbus.



OHIO EXHIBIT, STATES EXHIBIT PALACE, AT THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

Prince and the Parrot.

It is doubtful whether the Prince of Wales has ever been addressed so rudely as was his lot when he visited the mansion of a certain Midland peer the other week.

He had inspected his friend's fine old house and then he expressed a desire to see the stables. So out they went, the grooms being wholly unprepared for their visit.

And they expected it they would have taken the precaution of removing to other quarters a fine green parrot whose cage hung from one of the rafters.

THE GREAT SEAL OF OHIO.

Unique Exhibit in States Palace at Jamestown Exposition.

In itself perhaps the most remarkable exhibit at the Jamestown exposition is the great seal of Ohio, made of grain and seed, with the true colors faithfully brought out and the proportion practically perfect, which stands guard at one end of the booth in the States Exhibit Palace.

The seal, together with its background, measures three feet square and is framed and set on an easel like an ordinary picture. It was made by Frank Gladfelter of Franklin county and has never before been shown.

The seal proper is circular and represents a prairie scene. In the foreground are several stacks of grain, in the background the sun setting behind the mountains. All this of course admits of many colors, shades and shadows, running from the yellow light of the sun to the somber brown of the mountains, and considering this, the work becomes all the more wonderful.

Viewed from the distance of several yards the picture looks like a painting. It is only after a closer inspection that its true ingredients are revealed and rightly appreciated. Thousands of grains and seeds were used, each being placed in its proper position by hand, which naturally required infinite pains and perseverance.

The seal stands out upon a heavy background of Dwarf Essex rape seed, and the foreground is of white clover seed and alfalfa, the shadows being of the latter. Bright patches of sunlight are composed of clover and yellow popcorn, shining over mountains of mustard seed and Essex rape.

Around the inner seal are two rings, one of black onion seed, the other of Kafir corn. Next is the lettering in yellow brown rape, and finally, three outer rings of onion seed, Kafir corn and citron. In the four corners of the frame are flags and seals in colors, done in like manner.

The seeds mentioned are the principal ones only. They compose the heavier coloring. Following, however, is the complete list of everything used: White clover, alfalfa, golden millet, hog millet, celery, German rape, Essex rape, Kafir corn, flax, muskmelon, onion, white mustard, poppy, peas, lettuce, rye, hog peas, watermelon, citron, popcorn, field corn, okra, red wheat, white wheat, oats, tomato, brown corn, turnip, pepper and morning glory cabbage.

The Exposition Completed.

Director General Barr of the Jamestown exposition has issued the following statement:

"The Jamestown Tercentennial exposition is completed. It fittingly commemorates the great historical event which it was designed to celebrate, and it reflects credit on the state of Virginia, the south and the nation. In the character of its buildings, the excellence of its exhibits and the beauty of location on historical Hampton Roads it compares favorably with any exposition held in this country and fully justifies its management in asking the united support of the people of the country."

First Solid Steel Car.

In the Machinery and Transportation building may be seen, among other interesting exhibits, the first solid steel railway car ever constructed, not one inch of wood being used, thereby making it impossible to meet death in an accident by fire or the splintering of the car.

MISLEADING ESTIMATES.

Why Municipal Lighting Plants Generally Cost More Than Expected.

It is most unusual for a municipal lighting plant to be erected at a cost that comes anywhere near the estimate presented to the city officials. In some cases these officials are directly to blame for accepting the estimates of representatives of manufacturing companies, who are, of course, more anxious to make a sale than to protect the citizens from ultimate disappointment. When an electrical engineer is called upon for an estimate it might seem as though the council had done its full duty, but unfortunately, in some cases at least, the temptation to secure a percentage on the construction cost is great enough to overcome professional honor, and estimates are submitted which are absolutely misleading. The only remedy for this would seem to be to obtain an independent estimate from a consulting engineer who would have no further interest in the matter.

Perhaps, however, the most common cause for disappointment is due to the fact that engineers in estimating cost fail to take into consideration what ought to be well known by this time—that cities cannot, as a rule, construct plants at as low figures as private companies can. This is due partly to the inexperience of city officials, which is taken advantage of in many cases, and also to the fact that the large amount of red tape which seems to be a necessary feature of such contracts has to be allowed for by bidders. It is therefore perfectly possible that an estimate for a municipal plant may be exceeded by 30 per cent when it would be an adequate one if the construction were to be undertaken by a private company. This is a feature of municipal ownership which has not been heretofore given the consideration that it deserves.

ANTI M. O. TIDE RISING.

Many Defeats in Many Places in the Last Few Months.

The rising of the tide of public resentment against municipal ownership is shown by the many defeats it has suffered during the past few months. Among those previously unrecorded in these pages are the following:

The voters of Canon City, Colo., defeated after constructing municipal waterworks.

In Hot Springs, S. D., M. O. candidates for aldermen were defeated in every ward.

The expenditure of \$50,000 to \$65,000 to develop electrical power was voted down in Shelburne, Ont.

In St. Louis, Mo., the vote was nearly six to one against bonding the city for an electric light plant.

The committee appointed by the town of Winchester, Mass., to investigate the subject of municipal lighting reported as follows:

"The committee is unanimously of the opinion that the town should not at this time undertake to own or control any municipal lighting plant, nor engage in the manufacture or distribution either of electricity or gas for municipal use or for the use of its inhabitants."

Galena Well Out of It.

The electric light plant of Galena, Ill., was installed in 1898 at a cost of \$13,000. It was sold the other day for \$13,000, but this price included a twenty-five year light, power and traction franchise. Under the new contract the city will get practically twice the amount of street lighting that was furnished by the municipal plant at only 10 per cent greater cost. The sale met with the unanimous approval of the mayor and city council, as the plant had not been a success. One account of it says:

"The management was changed as often as new political cliques gained power, and at times there was no street illumination at all. The commercial service was inferior."

Would Forfeit Vast Revenues.

As long ago as 1902 the then 817 street railways paid to the various municipalities and states \$13,360,355 a year in taxes, according to our bureau of census. Adding the taxes on street railway securities as property of the holders and the additions, the total is now fully \$25,000,000 a year. Municipal ownership would forfeit that great sum as state and municipal revenue.—Walter J. Ballard in Los Angeles Times.

No Exposures For Him.

"Now, here," said the enthusiastic real estate agent to the prominent politician, "is one of the most desirable houses in the capital. It has exposures all around!"

"Good heavens," cried the prominent politician, with a start of dismay, "that's just what I'm trying to get away from!"—Baltimore American.

Sentiment Not Enough.

The mere sentiment for ownership is not enough. It must be accompanied by the cold figures to demonstrate its practicability under a strictly business test. Unfortunately the sentimentality of the case is too often indulged first and to the exclusion of the necessary facts and figures.—Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph.

The beauties of the English language are again evident in the case of that western man who had skipped with the town funds and was described as "six feet tall and \$10,000 short."—Exchange.

The city council of Pine Bluff, Ark., has rejected the municipal ownership scheme and has renewed the contract for lighting for five years.

Found At Last.

J. A. Harmon, of Lizemore, West Va., says: "At last I have found the perfect pill that never disappoints me; and for the benefit of others afflicted with torpid liver and chronic constipation, will say: take Dr. King's New Life Pills." Guaranteed satisfactory. 25c at Wm. Kipp's Sons' drug store.

VALUATION AND TAXATION.

It is probable, that one of the worst practices, in connection with the assessed valuation of real estate, is the preference which is frequently given to unimproved property, held for speculative purposes, by land companies and individuals, for the benefits arising from neighborhood improvements and growth. In many communities this class of property is held for years, and has not only been assessed at nominal figures, but owners have frequently defaulted in their taxes and assessments, with the hope, perhaps, that future buyers would pay these public charges in the purchase of the tracts so held.

It has been the experience in some of our growing cities, that large tracts of unimproved, residential land, mapped out in lots at good prices, are owned by land companies and are assessed as farm lands, at nominal rates. Sometimes, large tracts of land in the outskirts of our cities, are held by speculative owners, waiting to secure the unearned increment from the enterprise of others, while in the meantime the public received but small revenue from these properties. But when a lot is sold to a private purchaser and a house is built upon it, immediately the assessed valuation is placed at a higher figure than a whole acre of the remaining part of the tract is assessed. This is a penalty on improvements which should be abolished.

The principal cause of low valuation in suburban places is found in the idea of local property owners that they attract buyers and residents. With a certain amount to be collected, the lower the valuation, the higher the tax rate. For local purposes, therefore, it doesn't make any difference whether the tax is paid at a high rate on a low valuation, or at a low rate on a high valuation; the amount of tax is the same in either case. Another consideration which is also held is the municipality's share of the county expenses. The lower the assessed valuation, the less the municipality has to pay each year to the county. That has practically been the principal course in the counties, with regard to percentage valuations, as taxes on real estate are not paid to the state. The opportunity which is afforded local assessors to discriminate, as between property owners, is evidently great, and possibly it is sometimes grossly abused.

The defeat of the abolition of discriminations and especially on unimproved property must be to reduce tax bills since a large amount of property which is not now assessed at a figure near its real worth will be added to the valuations. Then, too, a fair and just rate of valuation and taxation will do much to break up speculative holdings of unimproved lands, intended for sale in residential lots, and the unearned increment will advert to those who improve and not to those who stand in the way of progress and public improvements.—The Gazette, York, Pa.

INTANGIBLE PROPERTY.

First, consider the intangible value which inheres in an industrial carpenter's outfit of tools. Would anyone say that the hard-working carpenter's tools should be taxed "according to their value for the uses to which they are being put"—because the industrial carpenter uses them to better advantage than exactly similar tools are used by an indolent carpenter? The answer to this question is obvious. Again, would anyone say that a merchant, or manufacturer, or farmer, who, by earnest endeavor, makes his tangible property yield more in returns than similar property in the hands of the idle and unthrifty, should be made to pay excessive taxes? It is plausible, on the ground of humanitarianism, to defend the proposition to "tax success rather than success."

But, that the state may, and should, confiscate the profits of honest success, amounts to placing a penalty upon proper ambition and endeavor, for success is merely the result of effort. There seems to me to be but little difference between an individual or a firm and a corporation, as far as intangible value is concerned. But by the construction of elastic portions of the constitution it has come to be law to tax the intangible value of corporations and allow the intangible value of a firm to be untaxed. If it appears that a railroad is earning dividends which are so great that they give to its stock a value in excess of the true necessary investment in plant, then the fault is with the state authorities, which have undertaken to regulate railroad charges and make them reasonable. The state of Michigan, for example, is in the position of regulating railroad rates for the purpose of making them reasonable; but at the same time, it proceeds upon a theory of taxation predicted upon the idea that the railroad rates are grossly unreasonable. And, worse yet, it proposes to continue along this line, actually allowing the railroads of the state to extort money from shippers and passengers, so that the state can tax it away from the railroads, using it for revenues, thereby relieving taxpayers who may pay but little, if any, transportation charges.—Weber's Weekly.

It is the experience of the past that there has been a disposition in each county to keep its valuations low in order that the burden might be shifted upon the shoulders of sister counties.

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